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**Czechs in Nebraska
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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen
uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	USA.....	3
2.1	Geography.....	3
2.2	Immigration.....	4
2.3	Important historical events.....	5
2.3.1	The Kansas-Nebraska Act	5
2.3.2	The Homestead Act of 1862.....	6
3	NEBRASKA LAND	7
3.1	The Agriculture development by Czechs	8
3.2	Businesses and Trades	9
3.3	Education	9
4	CZECH IMMIGRATION.....	11
4.1	Against the immigration	12
4.2	Reasons for leaving.....	12
4.3	Communication with Homeland	13
4.4	Difficulties in the new country	14
4.4.1	Czech Farmers' Mutual Aid Society	15
5	CZECH CULTURE	16
5.1	Czech language.....	16
5.1.1	Komenský Club.....	17
5.1.2	Dr. Vladimír Kucera and his influence on Czech language	18
5.2	Cuisine	19
5.3	Music.....	20
5.4	Festivals	20
5.4.1	Wilber Festival	21
5.5	Organizations	21
5.5.1	Sokol Gymnastic Society	22
5.5.2	Western Bohemian Fraternal Association	22
5.6	Nebraska Czechs Incorporated	23
5.6.1	The Miss Czech Slovak US.....	24
6	CZECH LEGACY IN NEBRASKA.....	25

7	CONCLUSION	31
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY	33
9	ABSTRACT	36
10	RESUMÉ	37
11	APPENDICES	38

1 INTRODUCTION

These days we are encountering terms like Western Globalization or Americanization. Almost everything what we are doing, eating, wearing or how we are acting is somehow influenced by the United States of America. Therefore there is an attractive opportunity to perceive the fact the United States, especially then the state Nebraska, have been affected by the Czech pioneers and the Czech culture, which they brought to Nebraska.

The bachelor thesis on the topic of Czech minority in Nebraska is designed as an assemblage of base materials. The whole thesis is divided into two main parts: theoretical and practical. The theoretical part includes four subheads. Firstly, it introduces basic information about the geography, immigration and important historical events of United States of America, which played an important role in history. Then, it briefly describes Nebraska as a land and deals with a question why this land was settled by Czech people. This subhead is followed by inquiry of reasons for leaving Czech Homeland, difficulties in the new land and dealing with those problems. At the end of the theoretical part imprints of the Czech culture in Nebraska and their impact on life of Nebraskan people are discussed. As the main instruments of recognition of Czech Culture are performed Czech language, Cuisine, Festivals and Organizations. The main goal of the theoretical part focuses on the mapping of the development of the social situation of Czech community in Nebraska, so called Nebraskan Czechs. The second goal of this part is clarification of legacy of the Czech culture and its impact on life of current ancestors of the Czech pioneers.

The aim for the practical part is familiarization with statements of few respondents, who are active involved in the Czech community in Nebraska. The main purpose of these questions is comparing opinions of respondents about the Czech legacy and its sustainability for the future in territory of Nebraska.

This thesis was drawn mainly from either printed sources or electronic books acquired from University of Lincoln in Nebraska. As well as from internet sources, which deal with history and settlement of Nebraska. The most genuine sources were conversations with the people of Nebraska. The Appendices contain detailed description of these Nebraskan citizens with Czech ancestry and their own photos.

2 USA

It could be difficult for a non-American to imagine how diverse the United States is. The United States has often been thought of as a melting pot as result of large-scale immigration from many different countries throughout its history. None of the member states has the same customs, language, traditions or the same attitudes and beliefs. Nonetheless, there is something harder than trying to describe all the diversity of the United States of America. For better cognition of the land itself, is necessary to know the land, its nature, inhabitant or culture and traditions (Matz 2008: 7).

2.1 Geography

The United States of America is composed of fifty political geographic entities known as states. These entities cover the land between the Pacific Ocean on the west coast and the Atlantic Ocean on the east coast, and are fitted in between Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. Alaska, in the far north, and Hawaii, in the central Pacific, thrive outside these borders, but they are part of the United States of America as well. The 9 826 630 square km of the United States create almost two and half times the size of the European Union. Each of the fifty states acts as unique geographic, cultural and political entity with its own government and constitution, but at the same time, they are governed by federal government. There is a great diversity among the states due to their different geographic, topographic, ethnic, historical, and other features (Matz 2008: 8-9).

2.2 Immigration

As Tiersky says (1990) in spite of the nation's immigrant tradition, it still is not easy being a newcomer to the United States of America. Often, there is a conflict between the ideas of the old country and those of the new country. Nevertheless, despite the need for tremendous adjustments, most immigrants learn to love their adopted land and to live happily in it. As well Tiersky (1990) points out the fact, that some of the most patriotic Americans are those who have lived and suffered elsewhere. The United States has provided for many people hope and safety that they never had before. In return, during the settlement, these immigrants contributed a lot to build their new homeland.

Czech people established their communities in the Midwest and Texas, due to the land cheap that was sometimes even completely free. Slovaks took jobs mainly in industries in cities such as Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Chicago, which turned into home for many Czechs. These days in the United States there live about two million Czechs, whereas in 1870 there were only 40 000 Czech people. Reasons for seeking the shelter overseas in the United States of America was mainly escaping from German Nazism (1938-1939) and from Communist persecution (1948-1969). Nowadays, there is need for a visa to enter the United States, as well for immigrants as for tourists. The United States offers an opportunity to apply for a green card, which stands for work permit, and after five years of durable habitation in the United States one is able to apply for citizenship and become a citizen of the United States of America. On arrival in the states, one may apply for a green card (the work permit) and after five years of permanent residency one may apply for citizenship and thus become a naturalized citizen (Peprník 2003: 82).

2.3 Important historical events

In this chapter, two events related to the history of Nebraska will be mentioned, because of their importance for immigration and especially for Czech migrants. First is the Kansas-Nebraska Act that created two new territories. The second one is the Homestead Act, which enabled and accelerated the settlement of the land.

2.3.1 The Kansas-Nebraska Act

The Great Plains area was a land inhabited mostly by Indians, who did not have commonly perceived borders or settlements as the Europeans did. In result of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which was passed in 1854, the borders of the Nebraska Territory were changed and new territories were created (Nebraskastudies 2016).

In 1854, a bill dealing with this land was passed by federal government. This act created two new territories – Kansas and Nebraska. With the issue of slavery already dividing Congress, Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic senator from Illinois, introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He had to deal with answering the crucial question of whether these two newly formed territories would be slave or free states. Douglas said that the question of whether the new territories would be slave or free would be decided by *popular sovereignty*, the idea that settlers in each territory would decide by popular vote for themselves whether or not to allow slavery in their territories (United States History 2016).

2.3.2 The Homestead Act of 1862

The Homestead Act is another piece of legislation that played a significant role in the history of the United States. Historians have called it the most important act for the welfare of people ever passed in the United States. The purpose of the Homestead Act was to give people public land for low price in order to spread American culture in new territories, which were quickly colonized by Europeans. The act was finally passed and signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 (Weiser 2014).

The Homestead Act of 1862 attracted the Czech people to settle in Nebraska and soon became Nebraska a new home for Czech farmers. The first Czech pioneers arrived in Nebraska through Wisconsin. In 1870 a few Czech farmers settled in eastern Nebraska in Douglas, Saunders and Saline Counties. Once they were prepared to build a new community, they sent for relatives and families in the homeland to join them in Nebraska. Czechs, as well other nations wanted to establish their new communities in Nebraska. In the following decades, Germans and Swedes arrived in Nebraska as the most numerous foreign-born immigrant groups. Therefore these three nations and their culture endure to flourish today (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

3 NEBRASKA LAND

Nebraska is located in the heart of the Midwest and Nebraskan people compare it to the heart of the Midwest like the Czech Republic is to the heart of Europe. Nebraska has the highest percentage of people of Czech ancestry in the United States. Steve Ourecky, a Nebraskan born citizen with Czech ancestry, thinks that Nebraskan citizens are less rigid and friendlier than those in neighbouring states with populations descending from German and Scandinavian immigrants. Nebraska has many farms and ranches and life in most town centres revolves around them (Ourecky 2016).

As it was already mentioned above, the main reason of immigrants for leaving their homeland was The Homestead Act which encouraged them to settle in the Midwest. Nebraska attracted them because of its cheap land, but also because it offered a place to established whole communities. A place where the Czech cultural and intellectual life offered theatres, publication houses, literary clubs could thrive. The Czech settlers were ambitious to take advantage of the new democracy and relative wealth (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

Firstly settled the Czechs into southeastern part of Nebraska, particularly the countries of Saline, Richardson, Colfax, Saunders and Dodge and everywhere they came the barren plains changed into a paradise. The Czech pioneers began to purchase the railroads lands in the valleys of the rivers Big Blue, Omaha and Platte,—for between 3 and 5 dollars per acre. In these countries they began to build towns with names such as Praha or Brno and others remind themselves of their homeland (Svejda 1976: 23-24).

Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota were also open to Czech settlers. Why did they decide to come to Nebraska in such large numbers? It was mainly because settlers in Nebraska in 1850's could take 160 acres of land due to the homestead law. After they had lived there for six months, they were able to buy it from the United States for 1.25 dollars per acre. This process was called pre-emption. The homestead law was passed in 1862 and following year went into effect. Settlers were allowed to take 160 acres for 14 dollars filing free under this law. After five years, they would be granted this land for free. In 1873 the timber claim act was passed. According to this law, settlers could get 160 acres by planting 10 acres of trees and taking care of them for eight years. All three of these laws were in effect from 1873 to 1891 and under them settlers could get 480 acres of land in a few years. Czechs were mostly agricultural people and also Czechoslovakia itself was overpopulated at the time, therefore they looked for place where it would be advantageous (Rosicky 1929: 20-21).

3.1 The Agriculture development by Czechs

The Czech pioneers started a new life in Nebraska and made land to be proud of. They brought to Nebraska love for freedom, heritage, music and their traditional food. The lands of Nebraska are imprint of hardship that the Czech pioneers encountered and endured (Kuska 1976: 186).

Farming, as it had been in their homeland, was the most important occupation for Czechs in Nebraska. The Czechs pioneers became skilful farmers and were able to teach themselves quickly the methods of advanced Americans (Svejda 1976: 21).

Homesteads and farms in the Czech homeland were situated close together in small villages. All of the buildings belonging to farmsteads were situated around a central courtyard. Fields represented daily work for farmers therefore each village was in the middle of these fields. The most common Czech farmstead had buildings connected on three sides forming a courtyard and the fourth side was enclosed with a wall. In Nebraska, due to larger farms people lived on farm rather than in a village, but farms were situated several miles from each other and people could feel isolated (Nebraska State Historical Society 2007).

3.2 Businesses and Trades

The Czechs have contributed more than just with their skills in the field of agriculture. Not all of the settlers had been farmers by profession. Many had been employed in different trades, but they saw a better future in farming (Svejda 1976: 27). Skilled immigrant craftsmen started a variety of businesses in Nebraska. Although many Czech pioneers returned to farming, others tried their luck in the field of business. By 1900 Czech businessmen ran most of the stores and shops in Czech communities. The first general store in Nebraska – *Český obchod* by C.F. Dvořák in Comstock – was established in the 1906. The sign of the store was written in Czech (Nebraska State Historical Society 2007). Besides farmers, craftsmen and businessmen, many Czechs succeeded in different professions. For example Frank Folda founded the first Czech bank in the United States – The Banking House of F. Folda in Schulyer or an important Czech-Nebraskan physician Dr. Olga Sadílek Štastný opened a medical office in Omaha in 1914 (Nebraska State Historical Society 2007).

3.3 Education

Despite of the act of the Nebraska territorial legislature in 1855 to provide free public schooling, life for children during the settlement was probably focused less on teaching in schools than it is now. The Free Public Schools Act created a territorial superintendent and provided public schools in the country. Each country superintendent was supposed to organize school districts and call for property tax to support local schools. Even if schools were important for development of new communities, sometimes the resources for support were not available. Therefore not every child was able to attend school and at the end of nineteenth century only 30 percent of school-aged children attended schools in Nebraska (Nebraskastudies 2016: 24).

Czech settlers established special schools for children and adults where they were able to visit classes, in which they were taught not only English language, but also history and culture. The first Czech who became the public school teacher in Nebraska in 1869 was Frank Znamenáček, a pioneer of Saline Country. These classes were usually held in local log schoolhouses (Nebraska State Historical Society 2007). A huge impact on teaching children,

who knew little or no English, had Vincent J. Stedry. He contributed to education with the translation of text books. As well he wrote the words of song in both English and Czech on sheets of paper and played the melody of the song of his violin. With this method of teaching Stedry was able to significantly increase interest for English language among children (Rosický 1929: 455).

The minority of Czechs who settled in Nebraska were ambitious for knowledge of their new land. As well as founding of publishing houses, creating newspapers and magazines, the University of Nebraska was the first state university, which established a Department of Czech and Professor Jeffrey D. Hrbek was summoned to fill the first Chair of Czech (Kucera 1976: 32). In 1907 was established a Slavonic Department in the University of Nebraska. Upon the written request of parents and guardians of fifty pupils, was passed a law in 1913, which provided the teaching of any modern language in every high school or metropolitan school. The authorities were allowed to employ teachers for an elective course of such European language as was written in the request. The only condition of providing courses was not more than five hours each week. Thanks to this law, the Czech language was being taught in the schools in towns such as Clarkson, Crete, Dwight, Milligan, Prague, Verdigre and Wilber (Rosický 1929: 412).

4 CZECH IMMIGRATION

In the United States the fact that the country was built by immigrants is well known and so the word has a more positive connotations, than elsewhere in the world (Matz 2008: 7). In the eighteenth and nineteenth century thousands of non-English speaking Europeans, especially from Germany, Scandinavia, Poland and Austria-Hungary began to settle in the United States of America in order to escape oppression and to get better opportunities in the New World (Anil 2001: 77-78).

Essentially the Czech pioneers occupied many towns in Nebraska. Between 1856 and 1914, associated mainly with the start of The Great War, over 50 000 Czechs came to Nebraska to build their new home. Nebraska ranked number one in Czech immigration per capita. The experience of marginalized groups, like the Czech people, resulted in more than two-million European immigrants settling on the Great Plains. In 1870 a full quarter of the Nebraskan population was born in a foreign country (Negraskastudies 2016: 29).

The Czechs left Europe for several reasons. First main reason was that farms in Czech lands were too small to make a good living. Second main reason was that many Czechs felt oppressed under Austria-Hungarian rule. Czech migrants wanted to express their political and religious freedom and also avoid military service for a country they did not consider as their own. This topic will be discussed in detail in the following chapters.

4.1 Against the immigration

Some of the Czech educated persons were hostile against the migration, because they believed it could weaken the nation. For example, In 1847 Havlíček, a journalist in *Pražské noviny*, urged the Czechs not to emigrate. J.K. Tyl wrote that for Czechs it would be better to stay in their homeland and not to move from the place where the roots of the Czech nation are. The plot of J.K.Tyl's play *Lesní panna aneb Cesta do Ameriky* deals with emigrants' failure in the United States. (Peprník 2003: 81). Despite of the discouraging, overwhelming majority of emigrants improved their lives (Tiersky 1990: 174-185). Some journalists in the United States expressed regret over the Americanization of Czech pioneers, but many authors of the Czech-language American publications emphasize the effort of Czech settlers to preserve the life and culture of their homeland (Opatrný 1993: 120).

4.2 Reasons for leaving

Why did the Czechs leave their homeland and come to the United States and why particularly to Nebraska? Political and religious struggles were primarily reasons to migrate to the United States. Worsening economic conditions, which were caused by crop failures of the 1870s and agricultural depression beginning in the 1880s, and overpopulation in Bohemia and Moravia pushed the Czechs out. Some also sought political freedom and escaping domination of the Habsburg Monarchy (Negraskastudies 2016: 29). The impulse arose when the Homestead Act and the immigration treaty between the United States and Austria-Hungary were signed. Czechs like other Europeans believed the United States offered a combination of a curious destination and many opportunities of political freedom and economic welfare (Opatrný 1993: 122). In the beginning, most emigrants were peasants who wanted to acquire a cheap land along with the social position. Urban craftsmen and workers came to Nebraska hoping for prosperous economy of the United States later (Opatrný 1993: 123).

Czechs were motivated to escape poverty as much as they desired to end the uncertainty of their economic and social situation. Among these immigrants were younger sons of small landholders from the middle levels of village society. They could not inherit the land, which everywhere in Europe conferred social status. Settling in the new country was an opportunity to obtain land and set up the social status for them. One of the earliest emigrants was Vojta Náprstek, who could be counted as a political migrant as he was a refugee of the 1848's revolution. According to Náprstek, America offered Czechs the opportunity to experience life in a different society. After the Czechs returned home, they were able to use their newly gained experience to promote democratization (Opatrný 1993: 124).

4.3 Communication with Homeland

Friends and relatives kept in touch with the Czech pioneers in Nebraska. In Bohemian and Moravian towns like Prague, Tábor, Jihlava, Broumov, people quickly became aware of the growing communities overseas, especially in Nebraska (Opatrný 1993: 120). A constant stream of advertisements¹ and in Czech-language written newspapers and magazines were published in Nebraska and sent back home in order to attract Czechs to Nebraska. Magazines as the *Hospodář*, an Omaha agricultural journal, helped advertise Czech settlement in the United States. Many families emigrated on the basis of information in such magazines. *Hospodář* was edited by John Rosický, a well known Czech pioneer. Its purpose was not only to promote the new land, but also to increase the population in Nebraska (Nebraskastudies 2016: 29). More important advertisement was a Czech paper *Pokrok Západu*, which was founded in 1871 by Edward Rosewater in Omaha. Primarily it served as an advertising sheet for new land and was supported by the Burlington and Missouri and Union Pacific railroad companies. *Pokrok západu* was published in Czech once in two weeks and sent free. Three years later, the newspapers contained eight pages and was published weekly, the price set at one dollar per year. Later, when John Rosický published and edited *Pokrok Západu*, the paper

¹ See in appendix 11.2.1.

became very successful journal, which helped not only Czech settlers on farms, but also artisan careers in towns (Rosický 1929: 29).

For better publicity of Nebraska, were established colonization clubs. The first club with almost five hundred members was formed in Chicago in late sixties and was called *Ceska osada*. Few years later was found a club named *Slovania* of this kind in Omaha. The purpose of these clubs was finding lands for settlement through investigating committees (Rosický 1929: 26).

When the Czechs immigrated to the United States they bought only a few personal possessions with them. They also bought the customs of their homeland to America. Following these customs helped make their new country seem more like home. These traditions influenced the way they built their houses, the food they ate, their language, social groups, music and religion.

4.4 Difficulties in the new country

On the other hand, life in the Midwest was far from easy. The continental climate meant long winters and very hot summers. There were no woods and therefore not enough material to build homes. The settlers first built cottages half sunk in the ground, with walls from sods². Czech called it *drňáky* or *sod'áky*. Another struggle for Czech settlers in the new land was lack of deep soil to plow. It was necessary for the American plow to be heavier and the Czech settlers were forced to earn money to purchase of an extra pair of oxen (Peprník 2003: 82).

However problems with the promised New World began already in the beginning of the journey. For Czechs and Slovaks, the main ports of embarkation were Bremen and Hamburg. These cities were already in 1850 linked with Prague by a railroad. The sea companies established special Czech agencies. The emigration from the Austria-Hungary was not prohibited, but the law allowed persecution of the shipping agents. The agents were paid by their company ten guildens for each emigrant they had convinced. The voyage to the United States lasted 35 days and the sanitation was primitive. About 1 percent

² A sod means in Czech language a piece of grassy soil, also it is called as *drn* in Czech

of passengers did not make it to the United States. Thanks to the introduction of steamers to ships in 1860', the voyage was shortened by two weeks and also the ships became bigger and could transport about two thousand people in the hold and about three hundred passengers in the cabins (Peprník 2003: 81).

4.4.1 Czech Farmers' Mutual Aid Society

Having the opportunity to settle in a new land brings many responsibilities as it is very difficult, especially when the land is hostile and untilled, as much as the former Nebraskan land was. To be able to communicate is necessary, so one is forced to learn a foreign language. In order to help the Czech settlers go through the difficulties, The Czech Farmers' Mutual Aid Society, the first insurance society in Nebraska, was formed in 1890 by Joseph Hanzl, a pioneer miller of Glencoe. The society consisted of fifty union or societies and numbered almost one thousand members (Rosický 1929: 347). Its purpose was to provide insurance against damage to crops, such as wheat, rye, barley, oats and later flax, corn and potatoes. As brought out before, the society was crucial for the first generation of settlers due to their lack of knowledge of English language (Svejda 1976: 28-29). The Czech paper *Pokrok Zapadu* was the official speaker until 1890, when the society was disbanded. Czech Farmers' Mutual Aid Society was most beneficial for Czech pioneers, who were not able to speak English, or knew little. Czechs who came later were able to enter English-language insurance societies (Rosický 1929: 374).

5 CZECH CULTURE

The way how we live, the clothes we wear, the language we speak, the food we eat, the stories we tell, and the ways we celebrate it all creates culture. Culture depends also on one's roots and where one's ancestors came from. Nations will always be distinct in their culture, since their specific cultures define what they are. Nebraska is identified as a home of the highest concentration of persons claiming Czech ancestry in the nation. Czechs left a culturally unique imprint on the natural and social landscape that prevails into these days (Ourecky 2016). For example as Mrs Saskova-Pierce (2016) points out, many Catholic churches in Czech communities are named after Czech saints, St. Wenceslaus being the most common. Most small towns in the United States with only a minority of American – Czech citizens devote only one weekend a year to promoting the Czech culture and traditions to tourists. Whereas Czech customs and traditions have become a norm in many Czech communities in Nebraska. These customs and traditions are practiced during the whole year, because they have become a part of daily life in Nebraska (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

5.1 Czech language

Language is a tool of thinking and communication and as such serves to development of the society. As it was already mentioned above, those were hard times for Czech settlers when they came to Nebraska and the common language became the strongest symbol of their national heritage for all Czechs. They used to perceive the preservation of the language as a guarantee that the Czech nation would survive. Although the knowledge of Czech language and culture itself became the indicator of membership in the Czech community, today the Czech language slowly fades away, because only old people are able to speak fluently. Younger generations know only some phrases or words, but they seem to be interested in other Czech traditions like food or music (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

5.1.1 Komenský Club

The Czech language in Nebraska is closely connected with the Komenský Club at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, because in the beginning the aim was to form a bond among Czechs and Americans and provide an opportunity for students to study Czech language, history and literature in regular courses. As well as offering universities and college students of Czech origin a chance to propagate Czech culture. Due to this goal the club organized poetry readings, musical performances and other cultural events (Saskova-Pierce 2016). As Saskova-Pierce (2016) points out, the members of Komenský Club realized that there was a need to communicate with the American community about the achievements of Czechs in the USA as well as in Europe.

As it was mentioned above, the main goal for Komenský Club was to establish the subject of Czech language and culture as legitimate course work at the University in Lincoln and at Omaha Creighton University. There were several reasons for maintaining the Czech language. Firstly, it was the need for children of the Czech settlers to study scholarly form of the Czech language in order to pass their language skills to next generations. To meet this goal the Rosický Publishing House in Omaha published Czech newspaper and magazines. On the other hand, there was a need of Czech speaking teachers who would be able to teach children with poor knowledge of Czech language. As well Churches were in need of priests, who could deliver a sermon in Czech. Therefore these institutions looked for devoted Czech youth with good knowledge of the Czech language (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

5.1.2 Dr. Vladimir Kucera and his influence on Czech language

In the late fifties of the nineteenth century the Czech culture in Nebraska went through a depression. It was mainly due to Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948, but the complications began earlier during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938. Communication between Nebraska Czechs and their relatives and friend almost vanished. Czechs and Slovaks in former Czechoslovakia were seduced by Communist propaganda not to contact the official enemies of their homeland, as the Communists called people in the United States. As well, in Nebraska schools became problematic and contradictory to teach one's children the Czech language, because it was known as language of the official enemy. This situation resulted in lack of young educated Czechs who could help to keep the Czech culture and especially language alive. This was a time, when a journalist, politician, as well as a political refugee Dr Vladimir Kucera from Brno entered Nebraska. His crucial idea was to review the Czech culture and awaken the ethic life in the United States. Dr Kucera began the realization of his idea in certain locations such as at the University of Nebraska. As well, he encouraged parents to send their children to the University to become students and thus help to retain the Czech language. As students they were also able to organize Czech festivals and other events like Czech Days in Wilber, which helped to promote the Czech culture in public (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

Knowledge of the Czech language is now rare affair in Nebraska and the future of Czech language depends on certain circumstances. On one hand there is interest of Nebraskan citizens about Czech culture and ethic life in the state and together with involvement of the young generation in learning the Czech heritage is connected. On the other hand co-operation with the Czech Republic on the cultural exchange of students could raise a demand for the knowledge of Czech culture. To meet this goal, a program The Czech Heritage was established and nowadays it plays a crucial part of keeping the Czech legacy alive (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

5.2 Cuisine

Not only language and traditions belongs to the culture of Czechs in Nebraska. One of the big parts of Czech culture in Nebraska is traditional Czech cuisine, which has been passed on from the very first generation and has played the symbolic role in the Czech legacy. It was interesting to find out, not only recipes are passed on, but also the names of typical Czech food. Words like *kolace*, *jíternice*, *svickova na smetaně*, *gulas*, *utopenci* belong to the active vocabulary of inhabitants. As Steve Ourecky (2016), one of citizens of Nebraska explains: "I grew up with Czech food and love it. I married a woman who is of Danish descent and won't eat it. So, I either need to go to one of the few Czech restaurants in Nebraska or cook for myself. I frequently make *gulas* or roast pork and currently have 2 jars of *utopenci* in the refrigerator that will be ready in a couple weeks" (Ourecky 2016). Grocery stores in towns of Nebraska dispose of supply of pork products, kraut, fruit fillings for *kolache*, but in order to meet the demand of all types of products, there is lack of the traditional Czech meats and baked goods. But in towns such as Milligan, Brainard, Clarkson and Wilber, the state and national Czech Capital there are bakeries and meat markets offering Czech delicacies (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

One of the traditional habits of Czech communities is eating a fish on Friday. This tradition has roots in the Catholic observation of lent, when one could not eat red meat on Friday. But the Friday fish remains in taverns and restaurants in the Nebraskan- Czech towns with Catholic population even in these days (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

5.3 Music

There is an old Czech statement, which says 'Who is a Czech, is a musician'. Music in general belongs to one of the main characteristic features of the Czech nation. A vital proof of this statement is tens of thousands folk songs, which follow Czech everywhere they arrive (Kucera 1976: 120). Music also became an effective way of communication with people in the United States and it presented a means of introducing the Czech culture to Americans (Kucera 1980: 80). Imprints of the Czech music influenced also the American music, which is enriched with songs composed or played by Czechs or with polka music (Kucera 1976: 120). As Mrs Saskova- Pierce (2016) points out polka music is heard from loudspeakers on Nebraska streets, jukeboxes in taverns and live at *Friday fish fries*, wedding receptions, weekly dances and town festivals. Also there are six radio stations, all in eastern Nebraska, which serve daily a vital role in preservation of Czech Culture. Polka has become an essential part of American culture with the strong social function (Ratliff 2007).

5.4 Festivals

To further appreciation of Czech folklore and other traditions Czech festivals were organized, the first being held at Omaha in 1960. At present the Czech festivals are held during summers in several small towns, Wilber, Clarkson, Dwight, Schuyler, North Bend and others. These festivals, which present programmes on the Czech pioneers, are extremely popular and well attended. The festival which is held for two days early in August at Wilber is attended by 30 000 people annually and is 'televised'. In 1963 Wilber was officially proclaimed the Czech Capital of Nebraska by the Governor (Ourecky 2016).

5.4.1 Wilber Festival

Wilber festival is the largest festival in Nebraska and one of the largest in the USA. The main reason for it is the fact, that Wilber is the Czech Capital of the United States. Mr Steve Ourecky, who is involved in the festivals as a member of the Nebraska Czechs, said that all the festivals have polka music and dancing, most have some sort of Czech food like pork, dumpling, sauerkraut, and sausages. Also kolache and pivo as traditional Czech delicacy contribute to the festival atmosphere. Every year at the Wilber festival is performed a play about the history of Czech people. This play is called *Historic Pageant*. Mr Ourecky also added the fact that in Nebraska there are lots of Czech festivals and attendance will vary from 50-100 people at a small festival to 20 000-40 000 at the Wilber festival (Ourecky 2016).

5.5 Organizations

For real economic and social needs in foreign country it is necessary to gather people in certain organizations in order to have the sentiment for the native land. Czechs are no exception and more than that, Czech organizations are more numerous than probably most other nationalities organizations. In the time when Czech settlers came to towns in Nebraska, Native Americans, who were drinking whiskey, gambling and stealing horses, criticised them for building saloons and dance halls. But they got used to expression of the Czech culture very quickly (Rosický 1929: 374).

There are two types generally: Benevolent or confraternal, and non-benefit, for example the gymnastic (Sokol), dramatic, singing and social societies. The benevolent organizations serve a twofold purpose – material help in the time of need and for social gatherings (Rosický 1929: 352).

5.5.1 Sokol Gymnastic Society

This society has been an important factor in Czech national life in Nebraska and the motherland. It was established in Prague in 1862 by a highly educated young intellectual Dr Miroslav Tyrš, at the time when the nation was awakening from lethargy produced by two hundred years of repression of the language and national feeling, by the Hapsburg monarchy. Dr Miroslav Tyrš's goal was physical training for body, national or patriotic training for the mind. Equality, harmony, fraternity. These words are connected with the birth of this society (Rosický 1929: 352).

When Czechs came to America, they organized Sokol in many communities. In 1865, the first Sokol in America was formed in St. Louise and the first Nebraska Sokol was formed in Crete in the 1870s. Sokol halls can still be found in many Nebraska towns such as Crete, Wilber, and Omaha. Sokol organizations in Nebraska are still very active today. In 1889 the first Sokol was established for women in Omaha. These women called themselves *Sokolky* and were led by Mrs. Mary Kriz. Other Sokol organizations were connected with Catholic church (Rosický, Rose 1929: 352). Now, the emphasis in Nebraska Sokol is not on gymnastics anymore, it is more of a social organization. The Sokol hall has always been a center of gathering of most Czech communities in the United States, it is the place to have wedding, dances, funerals and large gatherings (Ourecky 2016).

5.5.2 Western Bohemian Fraternal Association

The ZČBJ, Západní Česko-Bratrská Jednota (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association), was founded in 1897 in Omaha. ZČBJ became the leading promoter of Czech culture in America. It is interesting that even in 1890's women and children were members of equal status with men in these Czech Associations. Many halls, which Czechs gathered in, were named after cities of their homeland, for example *Tábor Hall* (Nebraska Trailblazer 2000). Many people of Czech ancestry belong to the ZBCJ and if there is not a Sokol hall there will be a ZBCJ hall in most Czech communities, sometimes they even share the building (Ourecky 2016).

5.6 Nebraska Czechs Incorporated

The Nebraska Czechs Incorporated is a state organization which enables co-operation of other Czech communities in order to preserve Czech heritage and culture. It was established on May 11, 1963 at a public business meeting in Wilber, the Czech Capital. The Seal of the Nebraska Czechs was designed as an emblem for the Czechs of Nebraska, which is supposed to honour the first Czech settlers. The main features of the Seal are a plow and a sheaf of wheat with the slogan *Pioneer of the Prairie* (Saskova-Pierce 2016).

In the post of officers and directors of the Nebraska Czechs Inc. were Eugene Zajicek, President George Barnas, Vice-President Helene Novak Baer, secretary and treasurer Frank Kohel from Wilber (Saskova-Pierce 2016). As Saskova-Pierce (2016) points out the general nature of the corporation is to develop and encourage interest, research, and inquiry into the culture, traditions, and history of the Czech immigrants to the United States and to Nebraska. But the Nebraska Czechs Incorporated has no connection with any individual organization, or policy in Czechoslovakia.

Each added chapter preserves the same Nebraska Czechs and adds the same of its own town or community, for example The Nebraska Czechs of Wilber becoming a chapter member in 1963. The first Czech community to be granted a charter was The Nebraska Czechs of Dwight. Dwight became Chapter One in 1963 with Alfred Novacek as president. The Omaha Czech Club is one of the oldest Czech organizations in Nebraska. The Komensky Club became the fifth chapter of the state organization (Saskova-Pierce 2016). As well as each chapter has its own name according to town, also costumes, which are worn during festivals and events, depend on chapter's unique features, but still uses the general idea of the Czech national costume – kroj (Saskova-Pierce 2016). The Nebraska Czechs Incorporated promotes the customs, culture and heritage of Czechoslovakian's by advertising, sponsoring of exhibitions, celebrations, and other events in order to attract attention of the public. The organization serves as main coordinator for all chapters in order to maintain festivals and entertainment days, it is also the main sponsor of the Nebraska Czech Queen Contest (Saskova-Pierce, 2016).

5.6.1 The Miss Czech Slovak US

The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant works similarly to other pageants, but does have distinct differences. The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant searches for young women who love their heritage and want to promote the Czech and Slovak culture across the US. In reward for contestants' passion and time, the pageant awards over \$10,000 in cash prizes. Contestants³ must be between the ages of 16-26, single and unwed females and of Czech, Slovak, or Silesian descent. Contestants must be present for all three days of competition and comply with the official rules and regulations. The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant is held on the first weekend in August in Wilber, Nebraska (Kurmel 2016).

Each contestant competes in the private interview category. This is a seven minute conversation with judges. All contestants receive three standard questions comprising of historical or personality content. The next part of the contest is Kroj Modelling. The contestants are also judged on the modelling and presentation of the Czech or Slovak kroj. There are two subcategories: Authentic kroj, which belongs to a family heirloom or is a re-creation of authentic kroj and should look like krojs brought over from the Czech and Slovak Republics, and Americanized kroj. An Americanized kroj is a representation of Czech or Slovak heritage with an American twist. These krojs do not need to have near authentic materials or colours, they allow contestants to express their heritage if an authentic kroj is not available (Kurmel 2016).

³ See in appendix 11.2.2

6 CZECH LEGACY IN NEBRASKA

This chapter contains an overview of Czech legacy in Nebraska in the point of view of a few respondents who lived in Nebraska and are in some way involved in upholding the Czech tradition, culture, music and language in the United States of America.

The sustainability of the Czech legacy in Nebraska depends on level of curiosity of the young generation. Meagan Kummel⁴, the Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen with Czech and Slovak heritage and the 26 year-old nanny and a co-founder of Southeast Nebraska Bohemian Bagpipe Band and former Miss Czech-Slovak US Danielle Zimmerman⁵ also belong into this generation. Their opinions about sustainability of the Czech heritage is completed with the opinion of Mr Steve Ourecky⁶, is an officer of Omaha Czech Cultural Club and the Nebraska Czechs, as well as a member of the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber and the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln (Kummel, Zimmerman, Ourecky 2016).

This generation needs to be interested in the Czech legacy, otherwise this culture faces a huge risk of dying out. But as it seems, Meagan is honoured to be part of the Czech community and through her title she is able to represent the Czech community on the national stage. By fostering growth and interest in the youth of the United States, she will continue to promote and preserve the Czech heritage, because she believes the Czech culture in Nebraska has the power to flourish. Meagan supports her opinion with the fact that people in Nebraska are unique because they live and celebrate today by remembering and learning from yesterday in preparing for tomorrow. Also Danielle shares a similar opinion. She thinks, if the younger generation continues to be involved in keeping the traditions alive, the Czech culture will never fully die out. On the other hand she admits, there is a problem with the Czech community in Nebraska which is stagnant, because the majority of Czech ancestors came to Nebraska from 1850s-early 1900s and many arrived in the US in the late 1600s into the 1700s, therefore there are only a few people who still speak Czech

⁴ See in appendix 11.2.3.

⁵ See in appendix 11.2.4.

⁶ See in appendix 11.2.5

(Kurmél, Zimmerman 2016).

Meagan has also been immersing herself in culture by learning the Czech language. She and her family are taking lessons from a local college so that they are able to practice together by speaking Czech at home. Also Danielle speaks Czech, not fluently though since she is not able to speak much in Nebraska, but at the time of studying abroad in Brno, autumn of 2012, she tried to immerse herself into Czech language and generally in culture of the Czech Republic. Danielle spent time with local students and had lessons with Czechs along with language classes. She does not bother to confess the fact that she misses being able to go to the Czech pubs, which she visited in Brno, for pivo, svičková⁷ and jatrove knedliky polevka⁸ (Kurmél, Zimmerman 2016).

Becoming the Queen of Czech-Slovak is an experience that changes and guides Meagan. She was crowned in June of 2015 as Miss Czech-Slovak Nebraska 2014-2015. Through the year as Miss Czech-Slovak Nebraska, she attended many festivals, events, parades, and a few other pageants. It was an impulse for her to work on familiarizing with current events and researching all about her background and the Czech and Slovak cultures. Throughout this experience she realized, she was getting excited about learning culture and heritage and sharing it (Kurmél 2016).

Mr Ourecky feels that the interest in the Czech legacy is more present now than when he was young, and he thinks the interest in the Czech culture is on the rise, partly as an extension to the study of genealogy. He belongs to the fifth generation to live in Nebraska and his family came to the United States in 1866. According to his opinion, the past generations were more concerned with being American than being Czech. Now there seems to be more interest in family history (Ourecky 2016).

⁷

Svíčková na smetaně

⁸

Polívka s játrovými knedlíčky

Ourecky's family was more involved in their Czech heritage than most families. "My grandmother taught Czech language courses at the local school. Despite this fact, I don't know much but some Czech words. I know many elder people who do speak Czech, having learned it from their parents or grandparents", explains Mr Ourecky. On the other hand, due to continuation of spreading the Czech legacy in form of learning Czech language, about six years ago, Steve and his then 12 years old daughter Julia attended Czech language lessons which they were given them by a teacher at her home. Since then, his daughter Julia has been very involved in the Czech community in Nebraska. Julia Ourecky is another example of a young person involved and interested in Czech culture. She has served as a representative for the Omaha Czech Cultural Club and for the Nebraska Czech of Wilber with the honorary title of Czech Princess and Czech Queen. Besides this, Julia is also the stage manager for the Wilber Czech Festival Historic pageant and plays in a dudy band.⁹ Julia is also involved in the *Czech Slavnosti* newspaper and attends Czech festivals all over the US (Ourecky, 2016).

Danielle shares an opinion which is vital for maintaining the Czech legacy in Nebraska. She points out, despite of celebrating by having festivals, there are few customs which are still observed, and the traditions are not known by people who are outside of chapters and communities, even if they are of Czech descent. The other problem Danielle detects in activity of older generation which is slowly fading. Many of their children burnt out or were not interested, leaving the next generation and those to follow not knowing about this community. Danielle assumes it is extremely hard to get the younger generation involved, mostly because they do not know about their heritage or the Czech communities. She also becomes aware of the fact that the biggest struggle is awareness of Czech traditions and getting the younger to the Czech events (Zimmerman 2016).

For Meagan, preserving the heritage is much more than reading about it in books or novels. For her is practicing and embracing the Czech traditions more important. Stories, literature and the history can be difficult to keep alive. The individuals who grew up telling fables and reading the literature are slowly passing away and it becomes harder and harder for the culture to pass on. Steve Ourecky (2016) says that Nebraskan people do not know much about Czech theatre or literature. On the other hand there are things that are easy to keep alive. According to Meagan is it music, food, and to a degree the language. The music is shared by family members and the Kummel family is no exception. Meagan has been learning to play accordion with her uncle, although she is not as experienced as he is, she enjoys playing polkas and mazurkas all the same. Also Danielle learned how to play heligonka¹⁰ when she ran for miss Czech Slovak in Nebraska. She still plays sometimes and sings in Czech southern Bohemian songs and therefore she founded one of the two Bohemian Bagpipe bands in Nebraska (Kurmel, Zimmerman 2016).

Meagan imagines the living culture as theatre, literature, cuisine, music and language, but also the culture costume like kroj is an important part of Kurmel family heritage for her. The interest in having an authentic looking kroj from the region has become very popular. One of the way how to honour her ancestors during the Miss Czech Slovak US, she and her family decided to wear her grandmother's kroj that embodies the resourcefulness and respect of the culture (Kurmel 2016).

As written above, her family comes from a couple of regions, therefore when she wears Peistanykroj¹¹ she thinks of great grandfather and grandmother from her father's side of the family, who told her the Czech nursery rhymes and prepared for her Slovak delicious food, and the Chodskakroj¹² helps her remember grandmother, her mother's mother, and polkaing¹³ in cabin in the summer and spending time at the lake, but these are just a few pieces of experience. Not just Meagan, but all her family is involved in the Czech Community, especially in Omaha where a huge development in preserving and

¹⁰ The button accordion

¹¹ Traditional dress from the region Piestany, Slovakia

¹² Traditional Czech dress from the West Bohemia, region Chodsko

¹³ Meagan uses this term for dancing a polka - type of a dance

sharing the culture takes place. The Kummel Family created a museum that will be expanding to a future site and is in conjunction with the National Czech-Slovak Museum that is located in Cedar Rapids in Iowa. Meagan also feels that Czechs in Nebraska are very proud of their Czech heritage and celebrate it whenever they get a chance. Therefore there are lots of festivals in Nebraska which are connected with the Czech community and its heritage. The main reason for building the museum was to improve the surroundings and create a better place for future generation. Meagan thinks, it was done all with hard work and with love for the Czech culture (Kummel 2016).

Having large population of Czech descendants means that many parts of the culture are based on Czech tradition in Nebraska, especially in towns like Wilber, Clarkson, David City, and Prague. “Most people I know don’t feel that pride in being Czech takes anything away from pride in being a US citizen. For me, being descended from Czechs who arrived almost 150 years ago is more about historic interests, although I feel loyalty to the Czech lands and people,” Mr Ourecky describes his opinion about cultural issues among Czechs and Americans (Ourecky 2016).

For the purpose of better notion about the situation of Czechs in Nebraska in these days, were realized conversations with Anežka Bartoňová from Pilsen who spent ten months in Nebraska with a host family Šlechta who have Czech roots. However, since all these families are volunteers, picking up the host family was not up to her. In order to have contact with the real Czech culture, they chose Anežka. It was a very interesting experience for her, although she was a little bit terrified when the host family took her to a small town called Prague for Czech celebration. This visit left a big impression in her, because at the beginning of the festival, the Czech anthem was sung and all of the participating knew the lyrics by heart. Also, well known kolache were eaten there. Whereas, as Anežka points out, the funny part of this visit finds Anežka in watching the converted Czech customs and garbled names of Czech towns, for example Plasi instead of Plasy. During the festival it was obvious that visitors enjoyed her presence and appreciated the fact that they could talk to her Czech and ask ‘jak se máš?’ (Bartoňová 2016).

According to Anežka there was a huge contrast between Nebraska and the Czech Republic. She found it very different from Europe which is kind of peculiar since most of the Americans used to be Europeans once. People of Nebraska live very social lives and are close to each other even though their houses are in different locations, not very near to one another. Also towns are generally small and houses are just randomly located everywhere. In this fact Anežka sees the main reason why they organize so many events and festivals whether these are religious or fundraisers gatherings, auctions, or as mentioned, Czech celebrations where they meet other locals (Bartoňová 2016).

Not only the way how they live is different, but also in their type of nature Anežka sees a contrast. They generally live very busy and interesting lives, always driving to one place or another and having days scheduled ahead, whereas most Czechs live from day to day without planning. It is also part of their nature to help each other and for example she adds her experience that she used to help prepare dinner for church or pick berries for neighbours. On the other hand, Anežka compares life in Nebraska to the Czech Republic, where according to her, it seems like everyone is mind their own business (Bartoňová 2016).

There is one thing which she will not forget about till the end of her life. It is a worldwide known fact that Americans are patriots and people in Nebraska are not an exception. They appreciate veterans and lots of boys from class, which she attended, were enlisted after the graduation and altogether it was 20% of boys from the class. The only thing she found little bit odd was that they had to recite a vow of fidelity to the United States of America every day in front the class (Bartoňová 2016).

7 CONCLUSION

The United States are diverse, each of the fifty states is unique in their own way. It is also due to the fact, that waves of immigrants among them were also Czech pioneers, came here for seeking a shelter in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Despite the influence of western globalization, Czech culture makes a special state of Nebraska, where two different aspects of culture co-exist. On the one hand there is still a power of the United States to have an upper hand, but on the other hand the Czech aspect forms a strong bond to heritage and ancestors.

The Czech pioneers chose Nebraska mainly due to cheap land, which was provided by The Homestead Act, and obtain agricultural potential. Czechs were also looking for advantage of democracy, absence of political and religious prejudice and for better living. In settling in the new country they gained the opportunity to establish whole communities, schools (English and Czech classes) and organizations which supported cultural and intellectual lives that the Czechs were not allowed to have in the old country. To keep in touch with the homeland and in order to get people in the Austria-Hungary aware of the Czech community in Nebraska and due to increasing population in Nebraska, in Czech language written advertisement, newspapers and magazines as *Hospodář* were published in the Rosický Publishing House in Omaha. In the present The Nebraska Czechs Incorporated attracts public attention to the customs, culture and heritage of Czechs by advertising, sponsoring exhibitions, celebrations, and other events like the Miss Czech-Slovak US. On the other hand, life in Nebraska was not easy at the beginning. The first settlers had to deal with difficulties, which started already with the journey to Nebraska and continued through the whole process of establishing the new home. Language barrier, lack of materials for building houses and continental climate were among the vital issues. In spite of this the Czech Farmers' Mutual Aid Society in Nebraska was formed and its purpose was to provide insurance.

These days, Nebraska is identified as home of the highest concentration of persons claiming Czech ancestry in the nation. Czechs left a culturally unique imprint on daily lives of Nebraskan people. These imprints include polka dance, Czech food which is closely connected with Czech language like for example utopenci, svičková na smetaně or pivo. Although former awareness of Czech language became the indicator of membership in the Czech community, later, due to hard times of Communists takeover or in time of Stalinist repression, the Czech language almost faded away. Therefore The Komensky Club was established with the help of Dr Vladimír Kucera who reawakened the Czech ethnic life though forming a bond among Czech and Americans in Nebraska.

According to conversation taken with people in Nebraska and one Czech, who stayed in Nebraska, nowadays Czech Nebraskans feel like Americans, but this fact does not take away the pride of heritage and active preservation of Czech culture and tradition of their ancestors. Keeping the Czech culture alive, is according to my opinion, in the hands of the young Nebraskan generation and it is necessary to show that Czech culture has many things that make it unique and worth learning.

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Photo 11.2.1.

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Photo 11.2.2.

Kurmmel (2015)

Photo 11.2.3.

Kurmmel (2015)

Photo 11.2.4.

Zimmerman (2013)

Photo 11.2.5.

Ourecky (2015)

9 ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis deals in immigration of the Czech nation to the United States of America, especially to the state of Nebraska. The thesis is shortly mapping the history of settlement of newly formed state of Nebraska and the influence of Czech culture on further development of the state. The bachelor thesis is divided into two parts. In the theoretical part the author deals with the beginning of settlement of Nebraska, reasons of leaving homeland and contribution of the Czechs to forming the state of Nebraska.

In the practical part through conversations with three citizens of Nebraska and one Czech respondent, who spent almost a year in Nebraska the author was investigating the situation of the Czech culture in Nebraska and its possible sustainability for other generations.

10 RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce pojednává o imigraci Českého národa do Spojených Států Amerických, zejména pak do státu Nebraska. Práce krátce mapuje historii osidlování nově vzniklého státu Nebraska a vliv české kultury na jeho další vývoj. Bakalářská práce je rozdělena do dvou částí. V teoretické části se autorka zabývá počátky osidlování Nebrasky, důvody emigrace a přispění Čechů k budování státu Nebraska.

V praktické části prostřednictvím konverzací s třemi občany žijícími v Nebrasce a s jednou Češkou, která zde strávila rok, autorka mapovala stav české kultury v Nebrasce a její možnou udržitelnost pro další generace.

11 APPENDICES

11.1 List of respondents

11.1.1. Meagan Kummel

11.1.2. Danielle Zimmerman

11.1.3. Steve Ourecky

11.2. Photos

11.2.1 Nebraska Lands Poster Advertisement in Czech Late 1800s

11.2.2. Miss Czech-Slovak US 2015-16 - Royal Court and contestant

11.2.3. Meagan Kummel

11.2.4. Danielle Zimmerman

11.2.5. Steve Ourecky

11.1.1. Meagan Kummel

Meagan Kummel is a current Miss Czech-Slovak US and this title makes her one of the most important young person related to the Czech legacy in Nebraska. Her Czech and Slovak ancestors come from both sides of her family from Pertolice, Prague, Dalkovice, Kutná Hora and Piešťany. She is a native Nebraskan and currently resides in Omaha. When she competed for Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak, Meagan represented Omaha Czech Culture Club. During this competition, Meagan performed a ballet polka and wore her grandmother's kroj. In addition to being crowned Miss Czech-Slovak United States, she also won Best Authentic Kroj category.

11.1.2. Danielle Zimmerman

Danielle Zimmerman finished her degree in music education in 2013. During senior year of college, she assigned for doing a field work project in world music class and chose to look into Czech music and began playing button accordion. Although she did not know anything about the Czech community, she knew she had had Czech ancestors. Her family baked kolache and ate pork and dumplings. Danielle became also one of the Miss Czech – Slovak Nebraska and won the title of Miss Czech - Slovak US. She studied abroad in Brno. After this experience, she immersed herself in genealogy, sewed authentic Czech costumes, took Czech language lessons, and became obsessed with learning everything about her ancestors. Due to this research in her heritage, Danielle's life and view of the world has changed 'drastically'.

11.1.3. Steve Ourecky,

He is more involved in the Czech culture in Nebraska than others. Mr Ourecky is an officer with Omaha Czech Cultural Club and the Nebraska Czechs. He is as well a member of the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber and the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. These organizations sponsor Czech festivals and other Czech cultural events in Nebraska. Publishing a Czech-American newspaper called The Czech Slavnosti, which covers festivals and other events in the US along with Czech bands and Czech food is another activity of his.

11.2. Photos

11.1.1.

NEBRASKA.
B. & M. RAILROAD
LANDS

THE START.

2ND YEAR.

3RD YEAR.

4TH YEAR.

5TH YEAR.

6TH YEAR.

600,000 AKRU
B. & M. DRAHY
POZEMKŮ
VE VÝCHODNÍ
NEBRASCE
NA PRODEJ
ZALEVNÉ CENY
APRIL
MIRNÝCH PODMÍNKÁCH
NEJLEPŠÍ POZEMKY NA ZÁPADĚ PRODUKČNÍ
A DOBYTKÁŘE- NEJDELŠÍHŮTY NEJINŠÍ
BRÁDKY NEJLIBERÁLNĚJŠÍ PODMÍNKY
JAKÉ KDO OD KTERÉKOLIV SPOL-
LEČNOSTI NABÍDNUTY
BYLY.

ČTĚTE OBSAH.

A. GAST & CO. ST. LOUIS

Karel Ludvík Budeker, úředně koncess. výpravčí loží v Bremách.

11.2.2.



11.2.3.



11.2.4.



11.2.5.

